Indian Government to either release or prosecute under ordinary procedure of the criminal law all those who were arrested during the Operation Blue Star; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Some representations from members and sympathisers of Amnesty International regarding review of cases of under trial prisoners apprehended during Operation Blue Star and presently lodged in Jodhpur Jail have been received. The pending cases are reviewed in the usual course.

Objectionable articles on Prophet and Islam

1574. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the December 1986 issue of the one English magazine of Delhi "Tortured for Christ" highly objectionable and inflamatory articles against the Prophet and Islam have been published which have hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims;

(b) what action has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take against such newspapers, journals and periodicals which preach communal hatred and attack various religious and religious leaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A booklet 'Tortured Christ' was found in circulation containing some objectionable articles against Islam. A case under section 295 A of the IPC (PS Hauz Qazi, Delhi) has been registered.

(c) Whenever any such articles are noticed, necessary legal action is initiated by the State Governments/UTs.

Orders for the arrest of editor of 'Deccan Herald'

1575. SHRI ALADI ARJUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jammu and Kashmir Government issued orders to arrest the Editor of Bangalore daily "Deccan Herald" in connection with a controversial short story; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and will be laid on the Table of the House.

सम्राट होटल

1576. **श्री अश्विनी कुमार** : क्या **पर्यटन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार "सम्राट होटल" को आर्थिक रूप से व्यवसाय-सक्षम बनाने के लिये क्या उपाय कर रही है या करने का विचार रखती है ?

पर्यटन मंत्री (मुफती मोहम्मद सईद) : 17 नवम्बर, 1982 को भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम द्वारा सम्राट होटल नई दिल्ली आंशिक रूप से खोल दिया गया था तथा इसमें 80 कमरे थे। इस समय इसमें 264 कमरे हैं। वर्ष 1985-86 तक यह "जेस्टेशन" अवधि में रहा। होटल के वर्ष-वार वित्तीय परिणाम

अनुबंध में दिए गए हैं। वर्ष 1986-87 के अन्तिम वित्तीय परिणामों के अनुसार, यह होटल 6 लाख रुपये का लाभ कमाएगा।

भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम ने सम्राट होटल सहित अपने विभिन्न होटलों के संबंध में बेहतर निष्पादन हासिल करने के लिए निम्नलिखित उपाय किए हैं :—

(i) मैसर्स ओडनेर होटल रिप्रेजेन्टेटिव्स, हांगकांग, मैसर्स गोल्डन तुलिप वर्ल्डवाइड होटल्स और ट्रस्टहाऊस फोर्ट, लंदन के साथ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आरक्षण संबंधों (टाइप-अप्स) के माध्यम से सम्राट होटल की जोरदार बिक्री।

(ii) विदेशी यात्रा प्रचालकों के साथ विशेष रेट संविदा पर हस्ताक्षर करना।

(iii) समूहों के आवागमन को प्रोत्साहन करने के लिए कारोबार की मात्रा पर निर्भर रहते हुए प्रोत्साहनों की पेशकश करना।

(iv) पार्टी रूम्स, आदि खोलना।

Seizure of snake skins

1577. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of seizure and confiscation of snake skins and snake skin articles has increased during the last year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard in comparison to the corresponding year and the value thereof; and

(c) whether the seized goods are exported by Govt agencies; if so, the names of the agencies and the quantity exported and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R ANSARI): (a) and (b) Information is not readily available in the Ministry and will be obtained and placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The Bharat Leather Corporation and the State Trading Corporation are authorised to export seized goods. During the period from January, 1984 to March, 1987 the Bharat Leather Corporation exported a total of 2,47,761 articles made of snake skins valued at Rs. 4,27,78,956. The State Trading Corporation has not exported any such goods so far.

Internal trade in items made of snake skins

1578. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether snake skins and items made of snake skins are not permitted to be traded in within the country; and

(b) whether any special licences are being issued; if so, under what conditions and to whom such licences have been issued during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R ANSARI) : (a) Trade in skins of 9 species of snakes and the products derived therefrom is now banned.

(b) The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 does not envisage the grant of any "special lincences" for the trade in snake skins and articles made therefrom.